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REPORT (PART II)

ON

NATIVE-OWNED ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending Saturday, 18th May 1901.

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CHANGES IN

I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

1462. The *Indian Mirror* in its issue of the 4th asks if the Ottoman Mission to China is meant to show that the Sultan considers himself one of the Powers that shape the destiny of the globe, or "is it to show that he can exercise spiritual jurisdiction over the Mussulmans of China. In the issue of the 5th it says," according to Reuter's telegram, the exercise of spiritual influence is clearly intended, and "Islam," says the *Mirror*, "has wider ramifications in the world than non-Mussulmans imagine. The Turks were best left alone by the Christian nations, for, with the Sultanate at Constantinople is bound up the religious and political life of all Islam. Make a serious attempt at wiping out the Turkish Empire, and all Mussulmans will be up in arms for the defence and maintenance of the rights and privileges of the Commander of the Faithful. The Khalif of the Moslem is even a more powerful factor in the world's concerns than the Pope."

INDIAN MIRROR,
4th and 5th May
1901.

1463. The *Bengalee* says, "Turkey has from the remotest times cast longing eyes on China, and now that the Celestial Empire is about to be cut and carved for the benefit of the European powers, Turkey can, it appears, ill resist having a finger in the Chinese pie."

BENGALEE,
8th May 1901.

It is said that the Turkish Mission is empowered to enter into relations with the Mussulmans of China. The *Bengalee* asks what kind of relations can the subjects of one King enter into with those of another? "If Turkey has any right to interfere in the affairs of China because a certain fraction of the population is Muhammadan, then, surely she has a better title to interfere in the affairs of India, which has a larger Muhammadan population than China."

The *Bengalee* thinks, however, that the Sultan would do better by looking after his own affairs, for "He stands on the crater of a volcano, and he and his dynasty may be blown off at any moment."

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

1464. The *Bengalee* reports that five suits have been instituted against a Sub-Inspector of Gobindgunge thana, district Rangpur, for recovery of sums alleged to have been extorted by him. The Munsif says in his judgment that he is satisfied that the Sub-Inspector has extorted money, yet the Sub-Inspector is still in charge of the Gobindgunge thana.

BENGALEE,
6th May 1901.

Note.—District Superintendent of Police, Rangpur, has been asked for a report.
1465. Referring to the deputation of Mr. Bonham-Carter and Rai Madhu Sudan Chowdhuri Bahadur to enquire into the working of the Noakhali Police, the *Indian Nation* wishes Mr. Bonham-Carter had had associated with him as colleague or president, a lawyer with judicial experience, say, Mr. Justice Sale, for instance.

INDIAN NATION,
6th May 1901.

The whole thing, says the *Nation*, appears to be informal and indefinite.
1466. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika*'s Bankipore correspondent gives an account of the riot which occurred during the *Mohurrum* riot in Patna. *Mohurrum* at Bankipore, stating that one man was killed on the spot, and it is rumoured that two more have died of their wounds.

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PATRIKA,
6th May 1901.

It is believed that before the real attack began, the men who had assaulted Mr. Boylan, Assistant District Superintendent of Police, had made good their escape, so only innocent sight-seers suffered at the hands of the police. It is of course hinted that the whole affair was due to the police.

Note.—In the report submitted by the District Superintendent of Police, there is no mention of loss of life.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
8th and 9th May
1901.

1467. The special correspondent of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, writing on the conduct of the Police with regard to the recent *Mohurrum* riot, says: "By careful and persistent enquiries I have satisfied myself that the greatest atrocities have been committed. Some men, believed to be innocent, have been arrested." The correspondent then says he has telegraphed to the Lieutenant-Governor, and is keeping a careful watch over the investigating officers.

Commenting on this, the *Patrika* of the 9th says, the *Mohurrum* riot was evidently a very serious affair, and blames the Police for not having made such arrangements as would make such a disturbance impossible. The Police used their *lathies* as freely as they say the *badmashes* did, and it has yet to be proved that they acted under provocation and were not responsible for the disturbance. The Patna Police have a bad record on account of acts of violence and oppression on more than one occasion.

The *Patrika* agrees with the correspondent that an enquiry should be made by somebody not connected with the Patna district.

NOTE.—The accounts given by the correspondent appear to be intentionally mendacious. The special report submitted by the District Superintendent of Police, makes no mention of loss of life or serious injury to anyone.

The Deputy Inspector-General was certainly not (as the correspondent says he was) present as a spectator.

Only recently the Patna correspondent of the *Patrika*, presumably the same correspondent, submitted an absolutely false story of a Marwari girl having been shot in the leg by an European.

BENGALEE,
9th May 1901.

1468. The *Bengalee* says "the question of Police reform is now before the Government, and it has not been taken up a day too soon." In the mufassal the policeman is the embodiment of British authority. The people judge of British rule by what they see of the policeman in their midst.

The *Bengalee* is disappointed that out of 12 lakhs sanctioned for Police reform, only five lakhs are to be given for the improvement of the civil police of the whole empire, and trusts that when the Provincial contracts are renewed next year, ample provision will be made for dealing with the police problem. The *Bengalee* then quotes the resolution on police reform passed at the Midnapore Conference, which contains the suggestions which have already appeared in the columns of the *Bengalee*.

The article then reverts to the old contention that incompetence of District Superintendents is due to their ranks being filled from the incapables of Anglo-Indian families; and proposes "a larger leaven of natives of India in the higher ranks." The police it thinks should be open to competitive examination to which natives of India should be freely admitted.

BENGALEE,
9th April 1901.

1469. The *Bengalee* has received an "admirable" letter from an esteemed friend in the mufassal on the subject of the inspecting staff of the police. The esteemed friend considers Inspectors are made to do much unnecessary clerical work; for instance, an Inspector at head-quarters could communicate his daily doings orally to the District Superintendent instead of having to write them in a diary. Then he might be relieved of the writing of piths, by the District Superintendent himself reading the special diaries or the piths being written by a clerk. During the absence of the District Superintendent of Police from head-quarters, the Inspector has to do the current work of the Police office, and does much of it too, even when the District Superintendent is in.

Then an Inspector gets no travelling allowance, the result of which is that in most cases he quarters himself on those whose work he goes out to inspect.

A first grade Sub-Inspector in charge of a first class station gets Rs. 80 per month pay, and Rs. 20 charge allowance, and the fourth grade Inspector gets the same, viz., Rs. 100 a month, with the expenses of travelling imposed on him. The correspondent suggests that the pay of Inspectors should range from Rs. 150 to Rs. 400, and that efficient Inspectors should be recruited by competitive examination, as well as from the ranks of Sub-Inspectors who have distinguished themselves.

1470. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* quotes two judgments, dated 2nd May 1899 and 18th July 1899, in which strong remarks were made by the trying Magistrates against Sub-Inspector Osman Ali, but no action was taken on them.

It also quotes from the evidence given by Mr. Cargill in the stolen note case, the following passage :—“The District Superintendent submitted a report about Osman Ali's holding land in the district, &c., I found no action necessary against Osman Ali.”

“Need anybody wonder,” asks the *Patrika*, “that Osman Ali, and not the District Magistrate, was looked upon as the real lord of the district?”

1471. The *Bengalee* in another article on Police reform suggests “something like a Provincial Service in connection with the Police Department, which will bear the brunt of the police work in its most important aspect, viz., the work of investigation, and that this service should be recruited from the educated community.”

The pay and prospects of men entering the police as Sub-Inspectors, are not now enough to induce a good class of men to enter, and therefore, “If the higher Police service has been described as the refuge of the incapables of the influential Anglo-Indian families, the lower Police service is, in an equal sense, though, of course, subject to reservations, the asylum of the do-nothings of respectable Bengalee families. When an educated or half-educated Bengalee lad finds he can do nothing, he goes and joins the police. This state of things must be changed.”

The *Bengalee* thinks the lowest rate of pay for Sub-Inspectors should be Rs. 75 a month, and of the lowest grade of Inspectors Rs. 150.

There should be a special grade of Inspectors on pay from Rs. 300 to Rs. 400, and “above all, facilities should be afforded to meritorious Inspectors to rise to the rank of District Superintendent of Police, not while they are on the eve of retirement, but while they are still capable of useful and efficient work.”

The examination for Sub-Inspectors should be made stiffer, and head-constables and constables should form a separate class not eligible for promotion.

Natives of India should be admitted to the competitive examinations for the higher appointments.

The efficiency of the police is a matter of the highest public importance and “if money can be spent on scientific frontiers (which are the reverse of scientific), money should be found for so necessary a measure as the reform of the police.”

(b)—Working of the Courts.

1472. The *Bengalee*, in its fifth article on the High Court's decision in the Noakhali murder case, repeats its opinion that section 477 of the Criminal Procedure Code rendered it obligatory on Mr. Pennell to act as he did with regard to Mr. Reily, and considers that there is no warrant for the view put forth by their Lordships.

It also desires to show that the criticism by the learned Judges of the subsequent steps taken by the Sessions Judge, is as uncharitable as it is unjust; and it is the deliberate opinion of this journal that the fact stated in the judgment are partially incorrect, and the law laid down clearly unsound.

It was certainly the duty of the High Court to point out the provision or provisions of law on which its dictum was based.

1473. In its sixth article on the High Court's judgment in the Noakhali murder case, the *Bengalee* expresses surprise that *Ibid.* two Judges of the High Court should have lent the authority of their office to such an untenable argument, as that of Messrs. Pratt and Amir Ali, that Mr. Pennell's proceeding of the 16th February was “not warranted by law.”

It is clear from Mr. Pennell's order that he never treated this proceeding as a precisely formulated charge, and it is hard to follow the “sequence of reasoning,” by which an order is held to be bad because it is not what it never purported to be. “An argument of this description serves to lend colour to the popular impression, however erroneous that impression may be, that their

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11th May 1901.

Lordships made up their minds to misunderstand Mr. Pennell at every step and at the every (*sic*) turn of the trial."

There is no doubt whatever that the procedure Mr. Pennell would have followed had he not been unduly interfered with, is the only procedure which, under the circumstances, the law sanctions and propriety dictates.

"If," says the *Bengalee*, "our view is correct, viz., that under section 477, Criminal Procedure Code, the Sessions Judge is merely to exercise the powers of a committing Magistrate so far as the framing of the charge and the committal upon that charge are concerned, there seems to be no valid reason for interpreting that section in a way which would dissociate it altogether from the rest of the Code."

In this manner it argues through three columns that the High Court's interpretation of the law is incorrect, and holds that there is no room for doubt that a Sessions Judge acting under section 477 must hold a formal enquiry before he can either charge or commit.

(d)—*Education.*

HINDOO PATRIOT,
7th May 1901.

1474. The *Hindoo Patriot* hopes the Bombay Government will come to the help of the students who are to be denied accommodation for students at admission to the Poona College of Science by the Poona College of Science. restriction that is to be put on the admissions on account of the want of accommodation.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

HINDOO PATRIOT,
3rd May 1901.

1475. The *Hindoo Patriot* writes as follows:—

"The system which the Calcutta Corporation has introduced in the collection of rates and taxes cannot but cause inconvenience to the bulk of rate-payers, and a representation should be sent by them to the Chairman for the reconsideration of this matter. One of the rules framed for this purpose is that the collecting sircar should present the bill once in the beginning of the quarter for which the rates are due, and if the same be not paid then and there he will not come for it again and the party will have to walk over to the Municipal Office for payment. This procedure is open to serious objection and demands an immediate modification. If the Municipal sircar do not come, then on whom will rest the burden of proof. Naturally the poor rate-payers will have to undertake it and it will be a hopeless task for him. We are afraid if the rules be not relaxed, it will inflict a great hardship on the people."

1476. The *Behar News* is glad that its articles on the Bhagalpur Municipality have attracted notice, and acknowledges a report of the results of the bacteriological examination of the filtered water of the town, lent to it by the Magistrate-Chairman of the Municipality.

It publishes a note by Dr. N. N. Mazumdar, M.B., of Bhagalpur, advocating the pulsometer scheme, and throwing out suggestions to which the attention of the Chairman of the Municipality and the Commissioner of the Division is invited.

(g)—*Railways and Communications including Canals and Irrigation.*

BENGALEE,
8th May 1901.

1477. The *Bengalee* complains of the way in which passengers are treated in the second class refreshment room on the Damukdia ferry. The food and attendance are both bad, and, he complains, no napkins or finger-bowls are provided.

(h).—*General.*

BENGALEE,
5th April 1901.

1478. The *Bengalee* notes that there is a general feeling that the object of the recent Government Resolution withdrawing from the Engineering Department one-half of the appointments in the Upper Subordinate Establishment is to benefit the Anglo-Indian students of the Apprentice

Department whose appointment will be made by selection, according to the discretion of the Government, while in the case of the Engineering students, those standing highest in the examination are to be appointed. The reason of this difference of treatment is found to lie in the fact that on a competitive examination where merit alone is the test, the Anglo-Indian candidates would stand no chance. Thus a blow has been dealt at the future prosperity of the Sibpur College, from which it will not recover until the Resolution of Government has been materially modified. Race ought not to be a qualification or disqualification, and no self-respecting Indian will submit to racial disability, which is the mark of servitude.

As it is, the qualifications of B. E. degree-holders of the Calcutta University are higher than those of the men who obtain their C. E.'s from Cooper's Hill, but while the latter may aspire to any appointment in the Public Works Department, the B. E. students of the Sibpur College are not even to have all the appointments in the Upper Subordinate Establishment. Under such limited prospects it is asked, how many will join the Engineering Department of the Sibpur College? As to apprentice students being more mechanical and practical, the question is asked, do the Engineers, who come from Cooper's Hill, ever turn out to be unpractical?

In this connection the *Bengalee* regrets that the Government has not appointed as Mining Inspector or Assistant in the Mining Department any of the L.E. and B.E. students who are undergoing a practical training for two years under the Superintendent of the East Indian Railway collieries at Giridih.

It trusts that the Government will see its way to appoint Babu Rames Chandra Das, L.E., who has applied for the post of a Mining Inspector, and remarks that 'it is idle to ask men to learn a technical art when their knowledge will not give them a career.'

1479. The *Hindoo Patriot* regrets that Mr. Brojendra Nath De has not been promoted to a Commissionership, and hopes that when the next vacancy occurs, Sir John Woodburn will consider his claims.

1480. The *Hindoo Patriot* says "much has been said and heard of the doings of the Calcutta Income Tax Office, and there is still a continuity in the chapter which is not likely to terminate in a near future."

It then relates a case in which a man who had been assessed above his income was kept dancing attendance for four days, after which he proved that he did not possess the income for which he had been assessed. A fresh enquiry was then made unknown to the gentleman, and on the evening of the 19th of April he received a post-card dated the 15th telling him his case would be heard on the 17th. On the 20th he hurried to the office and filed an objection petition. He was then told that his case would be heard on the 7th May, and that in the meantime he should deposit his tax, or the usual steps would be taken against him.

1481. The *Bengalee* is glad to hear that one lakh of rupees has been allotted for removing the present block in the Judicial Service, but it says, "Two things are clear. *First*, the sum promised will not be at all adequate to place the Subordinate Judges and Munsifs on an equal footing with the Executive branch; *secondly*, until the Munsifs can look forward to a Rs. £00 grade they will continue to bewail their lot."

The present mode of recruitment does not enable a Munsif to put in the 25 years' service necessary for him to earn a maximum pension, for a Munsif rarely gets a permanent appointment until he is 32.

It is a pity the Munsifs are not included among the officers considered in section 441 of the Civil Service Regulations. Until lately they could claim some consideration at the hands of Government on the strength of proviso V, Art III of the Civil Pension Code, but this proviso no longer finds a place in the Pension rules.

The *Bengalee* hopes Lord Curzon will see the injustice of these Pension rules, and so amend them as to bring them in harmony with those which obtain

HINDOO PATRIOT,
4th May 1901.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
6th May 1901.

BENGALEE,
8th May 1901.

in respect of other functionaries, who like the Munsifs are recruited from the learned professions.

BENGALEE,
9th May 1901.

1482. Referring to the remarks made by the District Magistrate of Alipur regarding the *post-mortem* examination in the Lansdowne Road case, the *Bengalee* says, "It would not be a bad thing to have two medical men wherever possible associated in these examinations. In the meantime we trust the Government will deal with the medical officer concerned in the way he should be dealt with."

"Civil Surgeons are often very busy men, and have not the time for *post-mortem* examinations. At the present moment an eminent medical man, who is also a servant of Government, is watching from day to day a case in the High Court, for which he is receiving a handsome fee."

The *Bengalee* trusts adequate provision has been made for his own work, for which he is paid out of the public funds.

BENGALEE,
9th May 1901.

1483. The *Bengalee* again advocates a rule for the promotion of Sub-Deputy Collectors to posts of Deputy Collectors Sub-Deputy Collectors. It quotes the Government Resolution to show that they are regarded as similar in power and responsibility to the Deputy Collectors, and asks why, this being the case, they should not have the same emoluments, or at any rate be given facilities for promotion to the higher grades. Such promotions, says the *Bengalee*, should be made usually by seniority, as promotions for "special merit" often mean "favouritism and the substitution of the reign of discretion."

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
10th May 1901.

1484. Referring to Sir William Wedderburn's suggestion to form an anti-famine league, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* says; "The disease is too deep seated to be eradicated by such patch work," and asks, "do not these frequent famines in India show the complete exhaustion of the nation?"

"The Government is very generous when famine actually knocks at the door. But what is the good of bringing about a famine and then fighting it.....The policy is to extort two rupees from a person for five years successively and then to spend twenty rupees to keep him alive."

The present rulers of the land have not profited by the experience of the great famine of the 18th Century in Bengal. The East India Company flourished and the people grew poorer. The revenue increased, and those who paid it starved. The fine property seemed on the point of slipping away from the hands of the Company, and it finally recovered from the shock by the concession of the Permanent Settlement of 1793."

"It is to the interest of both rulers and ruled that famines should be stopped." They are not due to drought, flood or weather, but to the fact that 'India's life-blood has been sucked out and she cannot stand the shock of distress.'

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11th May 1901.

1485. The *Bengalee* thinks that most of the evils existing in the offices of the Bengal Secretariat may be traced to the Chief Clerks or Registrars, whose duty it is to lord it over their subordinates.

The Under-Secretary is too hard-worked to look into questions of promotion and degradation, so leaves it all to the Registrar, who rewards his favourites (generally good-for-nothing fellows), while merit is left out in the cold.

All the work of letter-drafting and précis-writing is done by the subordinate clerks, and the Registrar's work is mere post-office work.

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1486. A correspondent signing himself X writes to the *Bengalee* making Prospects of ministerial officers. the following suggestions for the improvement of the prospects of ministerial officers:—

- (1) The system of filling up vacancies by appointing officers of the same district where vacancies occur, should be done away with. This rule should at least be applied to posts carrying salaries of Rs. 50 and upwards.
- (2) That a rule be made to promote at least two of the more competent ministerial officers to the Provincial Service.

1487. The following appears in the *Bengalee*:—

Complaint of witnesses. In the culpable homicide case, now being heard by Mr. Justice Sale, several poor and illiterate persons have been brought here from Hazaribagh as witnesses on behalf of the prosecution. Two of these witnesses, while making their statements yesterday, said that they were being not at all cared for—that, in fact, they were starving. We hope that Mr. Justice Sale will order an enquiry into the matter.

BENGALEE,
9th May 1901.

The proposed dismemberment of the Bankura district. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* publishes a long letter purporting to come from a correspondent at Purulia, protesting against the proposed transfer of Gobindpore to Burdwan, and the formation of a new district with head-quarters at Asansol.

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"All these momentous changes," says the correspondent, "seem to have been decided upon on the *ex parte* representation of an influential European Association, the local authorities and the residents of the tracts concerned, not having been consulted in the matter."

The people of Bankura in public meeting have already protested against the dismemberment of their district, and the people of Manbhumi "are not slow to express their alarm."

The *Patrika* hopes this communication will attract the serious notice of the Lieutenant-Governor.

What the Indians had and how they lost all. Under this heading the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* publishes a long article in which it endeavours to show that, though India has all that is essential for a civilised State, the people of the country have nothing to do

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with the advantages. The Civil Service and the military organisation belong to the Europeans, almost all the departments are under the control of aliens, the profits of the growing trade go to others than 'children of the soil.'

The poverty of India in which the Europeans had no share has been left by the British Government for the use of the Indians alone.

The Indians were promised posts in special departments carrying salaries of Rs. 200 and upwards, but "almost all these are not in the possession of natives of the soil, but those who are practically aliens here."

The Indians have been ruthlessly expelled from the Post office. The higher posts are now, generally speaking, occupied by the "higher Whites," and the subordinate posts by the "poor Whites."

After the mutiny, India was taxed to pay for it. Though the Punjab saved the Empire, its people had to pay the cost of the suppression of the rebellion. "And why did India have to pay for her rebellion, while England paid for the rebellion in Canada?"

"The imposition of the Income-tax was the first shake given to the permanently-settled lands in India. Then followed the road cess and afterwards the Public Works cess, which undermined the rights of zamindars. And now whenever a big zamindari falls into the Court of Wards, it is put in charge of a European or a Eurasian."

The Indian States were left to the Indians, but it is doubtful whether any Indian Prince enjoys his right to any considerable degree. The general condition of the Indian States is this: (a) the British Political is supreme in every State; (b) in some States the Political rules in the name of the reigning prince; (c) many of the high posts are in the hands of foreigners.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

1490. The following is taken from the *Bengalee*:—

A forged advertisement. A few days back we commented strongly on an advertisement, professing to bear the signature of the Administrator of the Jamkhindi State, inviting applications for a certain appointment and intimating that a non-Brahmin candidate would be given preference. We now learn that the advertisement is a forgery, and that the Administrator of the Jamkhindi State is no more responsible for it than the man in the moon. We are much relieved at this disclaimer; and we hope that an effort will be made to trace the offender.

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VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

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PATRIKA,
2nd May 1901.

BENGALEE,
5th May 1901.

BENGALEE,
5th May 1901.

BENGALEE,
6th May 1901.

INDIAN NATION,
6th May 1901.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
6th May 1901.

BENGALEE,
6th May 1901.

INDIAN NATION,
6th May 1901.

1491. Referring to some remarks of Sir Charles Dilke that Britain is bound to maintain forces in hot and unhealthy countries, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* asks "Why are you bound to do so?" "It is on account of India," says the *Patrika*, "and the best course is to leave the Indians alone to defend their own country. If you cannot trust them, give them a better rule or some kind of self-government."

1492. The *Bengalee* reports that the European manager of a tea estate in Assam has been charged with attempt at rape on a cooly woman, whose statement before the Subdivisional Officer has been published.

1493. The following is taken from the *Bengalee* :—

A Bengalee student in France. We are glad to hear that Mr. Jamini Mohan Chatterjee, who has been studying Engineering—Theoretical and Practical—in France for the last three years and-a-half, has completed his course, and that his final examination comes off in July next. Mr. Jamini Mohan Chatterjee is a great grandson of the late Babu Radhika Prosad Roy, eldest son of the renowned Raja Ram Mohan Roy, and a nephew of our well-known fellow townsman, Mr. K. M. Chatterjee, Second Judge of the Calcutta Court of Small Causes. We wish Mr. Jamini Mohan every success.

1494. The *Bengalee* publishes a letter written by Mr. Pennell to the Government Pleader at Noakhali, giving him instructions for the prosecution of the case against

Sadak Ali, and suggestions for the cross-examination of Mr. Reily.

1495. The *Indian Nation* thinks the Government would do well to send for the records of the case of Chogmull Sokhani *versus* Kedar Nath Banerjea, Superintendent of the Office of Conservator of Forests, Bengal, as the case is a very serious one and affects the honour and honesty of a Government servant.

Civil suits against a Government official. The defendant owed plaintiff Rs. 1,800 on two promissory notes. It is said that by paying Rs. 800 to plaintiff's gomasta, he obtained possession of the notes and destroyed them.

1496. The *Hindoo Patriot* quotes a telegram from the Durban correspondent of "India," complaining that though European refugees have been allowed to return to the Transvaal, no 'permits' have yet been granted to Indians.

The *Patriot* thinks, if the facts stated are correct, "nothing could be greater injustice."

"It was the unequal treatment of races that led the British to war, and surely it is the bounden duty of England to mete out equal treatment for all races."

The Indians do not wish to be associated with the administration of the new territories. They simply want leave to trade and work there.

1497. The *Bengalee* complains that the absence of native officials from the Conference is due to the influence of their superiors, and thinks that, as Lord Lansdowne's circular does not forbid officials to attend the Congress meetings

provided they take no part in the proceedings, no influence should be used to keep them away. In fact it is the duty of the higher district officials to attend in order to keep themselves in touch with public opinion.

At the meeting of the Congress in Lahore, all the higher officials were present. Bengal should follow the example of the Punjab.

Public opinion is daily becoming a power in the land, and, as Lord Ripon prophesied, is destined to become the irresistible and unresisted master of the Government.

1498. The *Indian Nation* wishes His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor had been present at the Conference, as he would doubtless have been deeply moved by the harrowing accounts that were given of the manner in which the Arms Act is administered in Midnapore.

The *Indian Nation* is glad to note that at the Conference some of the Calcutta leaders who had unfortunately for some time past been alienated from each other by reason of a misunderstanding, shook hands and became friends.

"No agitation will be of any use, even working and travelling agents will do little good, so long as hearts are disunited."

1499. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* says, "The warm demonstrations in Mr. Pennell's favour show that (1) the Indians value English sympathy as a precious blessing, and (2) it is a blessing that is very rare."

Lord Ripon, Mr. Bradlaugh and Mr. Pennell have all earned the undying gratitude of India, because they have shown some sympathy for the people.

The *Patrika* then tries to show how and why the English are so unsympathetic towards the natives, and says, "The rulers come in contact with the ruled only on two occasions. One occasion is when the master wants his taxes. The other occasion is when he sends for the Indian to see, by a thorough and scientific trial, whether he ought to be sent to jail or not."

"We hear of famines in India—water famines, grain famines, money famines, and so forth. But the most terrible of all the famines is this famine of sympathy."

1500. The *Bengalee* notes with pleasure the slow but steady movement of the Muhammadan community in support of the Congress. At the Midnapore Conference there were several Muhammadan delegates, one of whom,

Maulvi Abdul Kayoon, of Burdwan, made a remarkable speech regarding simultaneous examinations.

The *Bengalee* entirely agree with Maulvi Abdul Kayoon in thinking that Muhammadans are in no way inferior to the Hindus in intellectual power and capacity; and Muhammadans do an injustice to themselves when they say that they will not be able to hold their own in a competitive examination with Hindus.

1501. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* understands that Mr. Pennell left for England on the 8th instant, possibly to try and enlist the sympathy of the English public.

"The Indian press," says the *Patrika*, "did not support Mr. Pennell personally, but the cause he advocated. He not only fingered the plague spot in the administration of justice, but exposed it in all its horrible nakedness. The people are very unhappy because of the way the criminal laws are administered. There is no safety for anyone. Anyone may be sacrificed at any time. It is the Osman Alis that now rule our destinies."

It was because Mr. Pennell brought this fact to light that he was idolized by the native press. "Even his best Indian friends have told him to his face that he deserves severe condemnation for his gross abuse of the higher authorities."

But Mr. Pennell has made it plain to the meanest apprehension that it is the Police Sub-Inspectors and not the highly-educated administrators who rule the district.

1502. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* is sorry to hear that an impression prevails in high official circles that Mr. Pennell received the sympathy of the Indian nation for his abuse of the authorities.

Mr. Pennell earned the gratitude of the people, because he had brought to light the real plague spot in the criminal administration, and sacrificed himself for this noble cause. His foul language and rancorous spirit have been condemned by all.

Referring to the supposed letter of instruction sent by Mr. Pennell to the Government Pleader at Noakhali, which the *Patrika* copied from the *Bengalee*, it says, "There are several expressions in this document which we wish were omitted."

NOTE.—At the opening of the trial of Sadak Ali, the Government Pleader informed the Court that he had received no such letter from Mr. Pennell.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
7th May 1901.

BENGALEE,
9th May 1901.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
9th May 1901.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
10th May 1901.

INDIAN EMPIRE,
8th May 1901.

1503. Referring to the difficulty experienced by young men in obtaining employment, the *Indian Mirror* asks why we do not start a system of commercial education. Madras and Bombay have already done something in this line, and in the latter city there are several private 'coaches,' and two or three years ago a Parsi Educational Institution opened a special commercial class, and its examinations are held under the auspices of the Chamber of Commerce.

"The Bengali genius," says the *Mirror*, "is not commercial, at the same time commercial education would open up a new field of employment for Bengalis."

OFFICE OF THE INSPR.-GENERAL
OF POLICE, L. P.,

WRITERS' BUILDINGS,
The 18th May 1901.

F. C. DALY,
Asst. to Insp. General of Police, L. P.